



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

SHIRAI et al. ✓

Application No.: 10/090,734 ✓

Filed: March 6, 2002 ✓

For: BALL CHAIN ✓

Art Unit: 3726

Examiner: M. Butler

Attorney Dkt. No.: 101160-0002

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 6, 2002

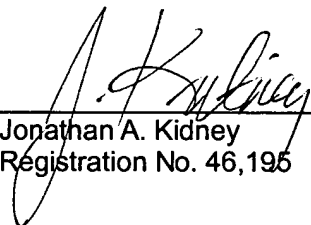
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information item(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item(s) is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the item(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date or the date of filing a CPA, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, or (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. A check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of \$130.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- ☒ 4. The references were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent application No. 09/390,628, filed September 7, 1999, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR § 1.98(d).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JAK:ksm

Enclosures: PTO-1449 Form



FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

101160-00021

SERIAL NO.

10/090,734

## LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

SHIRAI et al.

FILING DATE

March 6, 2002

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3726

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	4,944,607	7/1990	JACOB			
	AB	5,822,861	10/1998	TADIC et al.	29	898.064	
	AC	5,988,883	11/1999	TAKAMATU et al.	384	45	
	AD	4,126,362	11/1978	HAMBLIN et al.	384	526	
	AE	5,291,655	3/1994	BENSON et al.	29	898.044	
	AF	5,469,620	11/1995	ZINKEN	29	898.064	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO PART.		
	AG	5-52215	3/1993	JAPAN					
	AH	5-52217	3/1993	JAPAN					
	AI	5-196037	8/1993	JAPAN					
	AJ	59-24226	2/1984	JAPAN					
	AK	DE 42 29 136 C1	3/1994	GERMANY					
	AL	92/14070	8/1992	WIPO					

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AM	
	AN	
	AO	

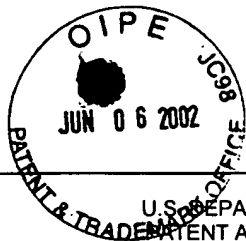
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FORM PTO-1449

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	AA						
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	AF						

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		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO PART.		
	AG	2 655 099	5/1991	FRANCE					
	AH	2 104 600 A	3/1991	UK					
	AI								
	AJ								
	AK								
	AL								

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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